<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 24, 2009. Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 10, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Office Action states that the "claim limitation of "wherein said printer includes print setting means therein and transmits print settings set by said print setting means to said external operating apparatus" is [sic, is not] described, explicitly or implicitly, within the specification." See, Office Action, page 6, paragraph 4. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and submit that the "print setting means" recited in Claim 19 is supported, at least, by page 24, lines 11-19 of the specification of the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph has been obviated and request its withdrawal.

Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,526 (Ohtsuka), in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,042,500 (Niikawa '500), in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,161,618 (Niikawa '618), and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0135687 (Nakajima). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohtsuka, Niikawa, Nakajima, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,948,792 (Narusawa). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejection are respectfully requested.

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The present claims generally concern three devices, namely an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer. According to one example embodiment, a first device, namely the external operating apparatus, reads out image data from a detachable storage medium, generates a print setting information interruption event in accordance with print settings set after the image data is transmitted to the host computer, and transmits the print setting information interruption event to the host computer. Thus, the first device both reads out image data and transmits a print setting information interruption event including print settings of the image data. An intermediate device, namely, the host computer, controls print preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data. In addition, the host computer generates print data corresponding to the same print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event. A third device, namely, the printer, prints the print data output from the host computer.

According to another aspect of the claims, the print settings are set by the printer and transmitted from the printer to the external operating apparatus. Naturally, the claims are not limited to these disclosed embodiments, which are merely examples according to the claims.

Thus, referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system including an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer. The external operating apparatus includes reading means for reading out image data from a detachable storage medium, a display unit which displays a print setting screen, and an operation

panel which is operative to set print settings in accordance with a print setting instruction

provided by a user based on the print setting screen displayed on the display unit. The external

operating apparatus also includes a button operative to instruct the host computer to preview the

image data read out by the reading means, and transmission means for transmitting the image

data read out by the reading means, to the host computer in response to the button being

operated. The external operating apparatus further includes a controller which generates a

plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for

causing the host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted by the

transmission means, the print setting information interruption event being generated in

accordance with the operation panel setting the print settings after the image data read out by the

reading means is transmitted to the host computer by the transmission means so that the

generated print setting information interruption event includes the print settings set by the

operation panel and is transmitted to the host computer. The host computer includes a receiving

unit which receives the image data read out by the reading means and then transmitted by the

transmission means from the storage medium, and receives the plurality of interruption events

generated by the controller from the external operating apparatus, a control unit which detects

whether the interruption event received by the receiving unit is the print setting information

interruption event, and controls print preview display such that the print settings included in the

received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data received by

the receiving unit, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected, and a

print control unit which generates print data corresponding to the print settings included in the

received print setting information interruption event, wherein the printer prints the print data

output from the host computer. The print settings reflected in the print preview display are the same print settings used to generate print data.

Independent Claim 9 is directed to a host computer of the system of Claim 1. Claims 13 and 15 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 16 and 18 are directed to computer-readable storage media substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Independent Claim 19 is directed to an embodiment in which the print settings are set by the printer and transmitted from the printer to the external operating apparatus.

Among other features of Claim 1 are (1) the controller which generates a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing the host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted by the transmission means; and (2) the control unit which detects whether the interruption event received by the receiving unit is the print setting information interruption event, and controls print preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data received by the receiving unit, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected.

By virtue of the features of Claim 1 the external operating apparatus (e.g., a controller) is arranged to be operable such that the host computer is controlled through operation (e.g., an interruption) provided to the external operating apparatus so as to effect print preview of the image data read out from the detachable storage medium (e.g., memory card) and perform print start processing.

Moreover, because the host computer can be controlled by a simple operation provided to the controller, usability of the host computer can be improved, so that the print preview can be effectively performed on a larger display screen of the host computer and print processing supported by a high operation speed and performance of the host computer is attained by the simple operation of the controller.

Ohtsuka relates to a recording order system which includes a digital camera 3, PC 4, print order receiving apparatus 1, and printer 2. See, e.g., Fig. 1 of Ohtsuka. When a user sets print conditions into the digital camera 3, the set print conditions are recorded as attribute information of an image to be printed, so that the image data is loaded into the PC 4 to generate a print order file 10 of the image.

The user operates the PC 4 to (1) generate the print order file 10 of the image data by means of a software installed in the PC 4 and (2) record the generated print order file on a recording medium 5. The print order receiving apparatus 1 receives the image file 9 along with the print order file 10 via the recording medium 5, and prints the image data 6 designated by image information 11 included in the print order file 10.

Page 9 of the Office Action concedes that Ohtsuka does not disclose the reading means, the button, and transmission means of the external operating apparatus and the receiving unit and the control unit of the host computer.

However, regarding the controller of the external operating apparatus, Applicants submit that even if it is assumed, arguendo, that Ohtsuka teaches that the image file 9 and the print order file 10 is transferred to the print order receiving apparatus 1 through a network, nothing in Ohtsuka has been found that teaches any specific structure of such a communication

for transfer of the image file and print order file, much less any structure of communication between the camera 3 and the PC 4, which would correspond to the plurality of interruption events transmitted to the host computer of Claim 1. Ohtsuka cannot teach that the camera transmits an event which is received by the PC 4 or the print order receiving apparatus 1 every time a print setting instruction is provided to the camera 3. Therefore, contrary to the Office Action, Ohtsuka is not believed to teach the controller of the external operating apparatus which generates a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing the host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted by the transmission means.

Niikawa '500 relates to a digital camera system which includes a digital camera 1 and a computer capable of connecting with the digital camera 1. When the digital camera 1 is connected to the computer, the computer displays the camera rear-view image and images read out from the digital camera. See. e.g., Fig.8 of Niikawa '500. The displayed camera rear-view image includes frame forwarding keys c6 and c7, and the computer is arranged to operate those keys to switch over the images to be displayed.

Nothing has been found in Niikawa '500 that teaches or suggest an interruption event generated by the camera that notifies a host computer in response to a print setting operation provided through the operation panel of the camera which stores the images. Indeed, nothing has been found in Niikawa '500 that teaches or suggests the controller of the external operating apparatus, much less the control unit of the host computer.

Niikawa '618 relates to a camera system which is arranged to display information of a computer display on a display screen of a digital camera, thereby operating the computer display from the digital camera.

Nakajima relates to storing, in a memory card, print and correction information as a related file upon photographing.

Niikawa '618 and Nakajima fail to disclose that an interruption event is notified to a host computer in response to a print setting operation provided to the camera which stores the images. Accordingly, Niikawa '618 and Nakajima are not believed to teach or suggest (1) the controller which generates a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing the host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted by the transmission means; and (2) the control unit which detects whether the interruption event received by the receiving unit is the print setting information interruption event, and controls print preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data received by the receiving unit, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the applied references, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 9, 13, 15, 16, and 18 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Independent Claim 9 is directed to a host computer of the system of Claim 1. Claims 13 and 15 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 16 and 18 are directed to computer-readable storage media substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively.

Independent Claim 19 is directed to an embodiment in which the print settings are set by the printer and transmitted from the printer to the external operating apparatus.

Accordingly, the applied references are not seen to disclose or suggest the arrangement set out in the present claims.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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